

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Nancy Floreen, Howard Denis, and Steve Silverman

Subject: Request to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – Washington Aqueduct – For a 90-Day Extension of the Period for Public Comment on the Washington Aqueduct Dalecarlia Water Treatment Project

Background

1. The Washington Aqueduct, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District operates the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant located in Washington, D. C. and Montgomery County. It supplies drinking water to over 1 million residents in the District of Columbia and Arlington County and the City of Falls Church in Virginia.
2. The solids generated during the water treatment process – filtering and disinfecting water drawn from the Potomac River – have historically been returned to the Potomac River.
3. Recently the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reissued the Washington Aqueduct’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit precluding the return of the water treatment solids to the Potomac. Therefore, the Washington Aqueduct is required to develop residual management alternatives for EPA approval and submit a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a 20-year period of operation.
4. The Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant is surrounded by residential neighborhoods and the Capital Crescent Trail. The Montgomery County and Washington, D. C. residents most affected by the final plan have not had access to all the essential documents nor adequate time to comment on the original alternatives.
5. There is strong community opposition to siting an industrial facility in a residential neighborhood. Residents need more time prior to the issuance of the DEIS to submit additional options that would have less negative impact on their neighborhoods.
6. It is critical to the integrity of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that there is full public participation in project planning and alternative analysis, especially by those individuals most impacted by the final residual management plan. These residents are understandably concerned if they are being denied access to essential

documents or not given sufficient time necessary to be truly a part of a process that NEPA mandates.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council strongly encourages the Washington Aqueduct to provide to the communities surrounding the Dalecarlia water treatment plant all studies and documents relative to the residual management alternatives proposed by the Washington Aqueduct.

The County Council strongly urges the Washington Aqueduct, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District to provide a 90-day extension of the period for public comment on the original alternatives and for submission of additional options.

The County Council strongly encourages the Washington Aqueduct to give the concerns of surrounding communities great weight and to ensure that, before choosing the final residual management plan, every consideration be given as to that plan's compatibility within a large established residential area.

The resolution will be forwarded to the Washington Aqueduct.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Mary A. Edgar, CMC
Clerk of the Council